

Original Proposal

A CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION:

Independence Charter Middle School has successfully operated for four years using the Core Knowledge Curriculum, a rigorous liberal arts curriculum. At present, ICMS serves 250 students in grades six thru eight and prepares its students to participate in a college preparatory curriculum. An ever-increasing number of parents and students who have attended our school are asking that we move ahead to develop a high school that offers a strong college preparatory curriculum in the liberal arts.

VISION:

We envision the establishment of a charter school that is a college preparatory liberal arts program for grades nine thru twelve that emphasizes the Advanced Placement curriculum. The focus of study at this school will emphasize studies in the areas of Communications and Government. The study of Communications will be an inclusive study of all facets of the field including print and broadcast journalism, investigative journalism, advertising, and commercial art. The study of Governments and policy will yield dynamic opportunities for our students in the areas of debate, policy analysis and research.

The addition of Advanced Placement courses in all subject areas provide us with a unique opportunity to offer our students the option of completing advanced level courses but also in attaining college credit for these courses that is accepted in over 75% of the colleges and universities across the United States. In addition, students who master AP level courses perform better on college entrance examinations (ACT and SAT). When college applications are being reviewed and rated by a prospective school, the student achieves a higher rating on their review for successful completion of AP courses.

COMPONENTS OF THE SCHOOL:

The high school will open with grade nine and will add a grade a year. We will also open with a student population in the high school of 150 and will increase class sizes each year until it is serving approximately 600- 800 students within four years after opening. At the present time we are seeking a site for the interim period that will allow us to continuously add a grade each year.

FACULTY:

We have had the opportunity to have the invaluable participation and contribution of certified faculty that are certified in the AP curriculum and who have extensive experience educating students who participate in college preparatory courses. Their expertise will be evident in our application that will be filed with the Oklahoma City Public Schools in the fall of 2002. They have assisted and provided educational leadership in helping to plan the curriculum and all aspects of the educational focus of our school.

FAMILIES FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, INC.:

A 501-C-3 corporation was formed in 1998 to file the original Middle School application with the Oklahoma City School District. At that time our name was Parents for a New Middle School, Inc. Our name was changed in 2002 and is now known as Families for Excellence in Education, Inc. It is the entity that filed the original charter application with the Oklahoma City School District and now has a contract with the District to operate Independence Charter Middle School. This will also be the not-for-profit corporation that will file the application for the high school and who will operate the new high school if it is approved.

PARENTS:

The backbone of our school is the assistance and hard work of the hundreds of parents who are personally invested in our school. They have provided over 35,000 hours of volunteer work during the tenure of ICMS and have been instrumental in both the formulation of our application for a high school and in the design of many of its programs. It is the participation of our parents and concerned family members that is one of the key ingredients to our outstanding success.

CONTACTS:

Information regarding ICMS or about the proposed high school can be obtained by contacting:

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